

Country-singing Soldier wins APG Talent Search



Courtesy of MIKE BROWN, DOIM VSD
Corey Sims sings “Help Pour Out the Rain” on his way to winning first place in the APG Talent Search held June 23.

Story by **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

A Soldier from Company A, 16th Ordnance Battalion charmed the judges and the audience with a soothing country ballad then sauntered away with the first place prize during the Aberdeen Proving Ground Talent Search held at the APG North Recreation Center June 23.

Pvt. Corey Sims sang Buddy Jewell’s “Help Pour Out the Rain,” a touching song about a little girl asking her father if she can help the angels help pour out the rain when she gets to heaven.

Second and third place went to civilians Justin Brown and Ashley Ramirez. Brown wowed the audience with two gospel rap songs he wrote himself and Ramirez took third with her rendition of “When it Rains” by Gretchen Wilson.

The first-place prize was \$250 while the second and third place prizes were \$175 and \$100, respectively.

Earlene Allen, MWR special events coordinator, thanked the show’s emcee, 1st Sgt. James Bell, “who did a wonderful job,” and Mike Brown

and Mike Miller from the Directorate of Information Management “for providing their usual professional sound and video support.”

“Also we want to thank the Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union for sponsoring the event with the prize money,” Allen said.

“Another talent search is being planned for January 2008 so all the singers and musicians out there can start getting ready now,” she added.

The show’s judges were Debi Horne, editor of the *APG News*, Charles Heinsohn, Morale, Welfare and Recreation programmer; Staff Sgt. Venus Sims, Company C, 143rd Ordnance Battalion; and Spc. Amanda Justice, 389th Army Band (AMC’s Own). Guest judges included Joe Leavell, director of Army Festival of the Performing Arts and Army Entertainment consultants Darryl Allara and Ken Freehill.

Corey Sims

A singer-songwriter from Indiana who’s been singing all his life, Sims said his musical inspirations are George Strait and Clay Walker.

He said he was surprised by the

audience’s enthusiastic reaction to his song as well as by his first-place finish.

“I was shocked,” he said. “There were so many talented people performing that night. The honor was just being in it [the show].”

Married with two children, Sims said that most of the singing he does these days is for his Family.

“But there’s nothing like a live audience,” he said. “It was wonderful.”

Justin Brown

Brown is a government contractor and technical support specialist with SoBran Inc. The 22-year old has been writing and performing his personal style of gospel rap for three years.

“I started through my church,” Brown said, adding that he is looking for other opportunities and would like to pursue a recording career. Brown performed two original songs, “Holy Ghost Party” and “Right Now.”

Ashley Ramirez

A contractor with the installation cleaning services, Ramirez said that she is a Karaoke enthusiast and that singing is as much a part of her as



Justin Brown raps his original gospel song “The Holy Ghost Party” to win second place.



Singing Gretchen Wilson’s “When it Rains” earns Ashley Ramirez a third-place finish.

breathing.

“I’ve been singing ever since I was able to use my voice,” Ramirez said, adding that she started out in church and “then it went from there.”

She said she sings Karaoke regularly in a local club and plans to participate in a national championship in Orlando in August.

She said she enjoyed participating in the talent search.

“It was so much fun. When I see people get up and dance or sing along

I just love it,” she said. “I absolutely cannot imagine myself living without music.”

The rest of the performers included Sgt. Sabachthony Queen and Pvts. Eric Joachim-Rehorst, Crystal-yne Matthews. Paul Kazelis, Cosby Carter, Derek Roberson, Jeremy Simmons, Brandon Coke, Brook Parker and Kevin Boyd. Civilian performers included Cynthia Hairston and Courtney White.

Storm damages more than trees at APG



Photos by JEFFREY DEAL, DIO
Darryll Nunez, with the Directorate of Installation Operations conservation branch saws a downed tree that fell at Quarters 81.



This shed had been anchored in a parking lot about one block away from its final resting place.



Only the mast of a sunken sailboat is visible about 100 yards off shore near Woodpecker Point.



The storm also uprooted this large tree near the Chesapeake Challenge amusement park.



Several trees were downed in the Plumb Point Loop housing area but with no apparent damage to any quarters.



Luckily this tree fell between two housing units leaving the houses, road and power lines undamaged.